

LIN4500: Intro to Syntax/LIN6501: Syntax 1

Meeting times & Locations: (T)Tue: P7(1:55-2:45 pm) @ MAT 0010 & (R)Thu: P7-8 (1:55-3:50 pm) @ LIT0205

Course's CANVAS site: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/515844>

Instructor: Dr. Marcin Dadan

Office: TBA

Office hours (in person & Zoom): Tue: 4:05-4:55 pm (P9), Wed: 1:55-2:30 pm (P7), Thu: 4:05-4:55 pm (P9) & by appointment.

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Course description

This course is an introduction to generative syntax, its main theoretical assumptions, and research methods. Looking at the data from English and other languages, we study formal properties of human language. Focusing on the word order possibilities and constraints, we will model the basic properties of human language, as a rule governed, complex and sophisticated system open to scientific inquiry. We will use scientific method to make generalizations about the observed data, develop syntactic tools to uncover their properties, and postulate a theory to account for them.

Learning Objectives

- Become familiar with various syntactic phenomena from English and other languages.
- Learn some basic tools and principles of generative syntax and apply them while analyzing the actual linguistic data.
- Learn how to work within a formal theory, how to make generalizations, and propose testable hypotheses.
- Learn how to diagnose grammatical structure, apply syntactic tests, and interpret their results.
- Develop argumentation and research skills.

Prerequisites

LIN3010 and LIN3460 for undergraduates; none for grad students.

Required Textbook

Syntax: A Generative Introduction (Fourth edition), ISBN: 1119569230, Andrew Carnie, Wiley-Blackwell, 2021. **[Make sure you have the 4th edition!]**.

Additional readings will be posted on CANVAS.

Course requirements & Grades:

Final course grades will be assessed based on your performance in the following activities:

Participation (incl. attendance) -10%

Catch-Phrase submissions (6)-10%

Homework (6 for undergraduates, 4 + 2 squibs for grads) – 30%

Midterm (in class) -25%

Final Exam (take-home) or Paper- 25%

The assignment of a final letter grade will be based on the following scale, recommended by CLAS. You can find more on UF grading policies here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

A	90-100	B	80-83	C	70-73	D	60-63
A-	87-89	B-	77-79	C-	67-69	D-	57-59
B+	84-86	C+	74-76	D+	64-66	E	56 and below

Participation: The attendance is obligatory (5% of the grade). You can miss up three classes to get the full attendance credit. If you miss more than 3 classes, you get 0% for attendance. You will also get a credit for participation (5% out of 10% for Participation). There are many various ways you can participate in the course and show your engagement in the class. You can ask questions during our class and be involved in answering my questions or participating in class/practice exercises/discussions. You can volunteer to draw the trees during the class. You can post questions and answer/comment on your colleagues' questions on the CANVAS discussion board. You can form a study group with your peers and help each other. The participation component is intended to help you learn, find a good way to learn, and to build a community. We all learn only if the material is meaningful to us. Don't hesitate to ask questions if you feel lost. I will adjust the pace of the classes to our needs, and I can spend more time on some part of the material if it's necessary. Our schedule is just our guideline.

Remember that you have to read all of the assigned readings *before the class*. See the latest version of the schedule to see what is required for a particular week/class.

See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Catch-Phrase (C-P) assignments: Every second week (or so; see the schedule below) you should submit one (or more) interesting expression(s) (from English or any other language) spotted 'in the wild'. This could be a phrase, a sentence, or a construction which for some linguistic reason you find 'intriguing'. This could be because the phrase/expression is hard to analyze or because it reveals something really neat or puzzling about human language. You should give me a reference (simply where you spotted it), reasons for finding it interesting, and some attempt at the analysis of this expression. You can get maximum 3 points for each submission. **Deadline for each Catch-Phrase is usually every second Sunday by the end of the day (before 23:59), but consult the schedule below.** Any late submission will be penalized 0.5 points for each day of the delay.

Homework Assignments: There will be approximately six homework assignments this semester. These will be mainly problem sets focusing on applying the class material to new data. **Graduate students** will have 4 such homework assignments and 2 squibs (short papers, 4-6 pages double-spaced, where you present some syntactic puzzle and (a) possible solution(s)). It is possible to take some data puzzle you provided in your catch-phrase submission or in any of the homework sets I gave you and expand on it, e.g., by providing more data or incorporate other language(s). It is strongly advised to write squibs and papers on languages that you speak as your L1 or on languages that you have access to the L1 speakers, and you can ask for their intuitions. You are encouraged to discuss the problems with your classmates but the write up must be entirely your own. If you

decided to collaborate on some problems, you should acknowledge that. If you consult some outside materials and sources, they must be properly cited, and the references given. I will say more about using the sources outside the textbook during our classes. Graduate students can choose whether they submit a homework or a squib for a particular week. **All homework assignments are usually due the latest by Sunday night by the end of the day (by 23:59).** Any assignments handed in after the due date will be penalized 10%. **No assignments will be accepted more than two days past the due date, unless you have discussed it with me.**

You can type the assignment answers and submit it on CANVAS (please use the word/.doc(x) format) or if you strongly prefer to give me a handwritten version, make sure you hand in it to me before the weekend when it is due. In such cases, make sure your handwriting is neat and clear, so I can read it. There will be many syntactic trees to draw. You may either use some online/software tools (e.g., one of the listed below), or you can draw the trees by hand, scan it, and attach it to your submission (e.g., paste it into the Word or PDF document). **Individual/separate pictures of the trees will not be accepted. The trees must be embedded in the HW file you submit.**

Here are some **tools for drawing trees**:

Treeform (<https://www.mapsofspeech.com/treeform/>),

SynTree (<http://mshang.ca/syntree/>),

Linguistic Tree Constructor (<https://ltc.sourceforge.io/>),

phpSyntaxTree (<http://www.tycho.iel.unicamp.br/phpsyntaxtree/>),

or try Latex packages like: qtree.sty or xyling.sty

(see also <https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX/Linguistics>, or

<https://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/using-latex-linguistics>)

Two exams will be given. Each exam will cover material from approximately half of the course, including information presented in lectures, handouts, and the assigned readings. The exams will test student's knowledge of basic concepts, terms, as well as data analysis. Study guides will be posted on CANVAS at least a week before the exam. Suggested study techniques for the exam are for the student to complete all the assigned readings for the exam and then to use course notes, readings, and PowerPoint slides to be sure that they are familiar with all the terms and concepts outlined on the study guide and that they can apply them to work with data sets from unfamiliar languages. See below for more details.

Midterm Exam (in-class): There will be one in-class exam based on the readings and handouts, scheduled during our usual class time. We will have a review session before the Midterm to practice similar types of exercises and discuss what you may expect. See the most recent version of the syllabus for the exact date of the exam.

Final Exam (take-home): Your final exam will be take-home and open-book and it will require both critical thinking and integration of the material covered during the semester. You will have around one week to turn it in via CANVAS. For **undergraduate students** there is also a **possibility to write a research paper instead of taking the final exam.**

Graduate students must write a final paper (instead of the exam). It is possible to expand your previous squib, catch-phrases, or use the exam or any homework-related data as a starting point.

The paper should be around 10-12 pages (double-spaced) and should be based on your research/ideas. You should contact me to discuss your **idea for the paper the latest by the 12th week of the classes.**

Collaboration on your homework assignments is encouraged, but each student should submit their solutions independently. Even if you worked together, you should write up your answers individually. You should also let me know who you worked with. You cannot collaborate on your final exam and all your answers should be the result of your individual effort. Answer copied from the internet or other sources without stating them in the references will get ‘0’ points. Same goes for the AI tools. You should not use the AI tools to generate answers to your assignments unless you are explicitly instructed to do it. I will be checking whether your answers were generated by any of the AI assistants, and you will get ‘0’ points (without the make-up possibility) and your academic misconduct will be reported.

Tentative Schedule v1 (Subject to change; see [CANVAS](#) for the latest version)

Week	Dates	Topics	Carnie's Chapters	Work/Due
1	Thu, 08/22	Intro to Generative Grammar	Ch1	
2	Tue, 08/27 Thu, 08/29	Parts of Speech/Categories Constituency 1	Ch2 Ch3	CP1 DUE SUN, 08/25
3	Tue, 09/03 Thu, 09/05	Constituency 2 PS-Rules 1	Ch3	HW1 DUE SUN, 09/08
4	Tue, 09/10 Thu, 09/12	PS-Rules 2 PS-Rules & Ambiguity Practice	Ch3	CP2 DUE SUN, 09/15
5	Tue, 09/17 Thu, 09/19	Structural Relations Binding Theory 1	Ch4 Ch5	HW2 DUE SUN, 09/22
6	Tue, 09/24 Thu, 09/26	Binding Theory 2 X'-Theory	Ch5 Ch6	CP3 DUE SUN, 09/29
7	Tue, 10/01 & Thu, 10/03	Extending X-Bar Theory: DP, TP, CP	Ch7	HW3 DUE SUN, 10/06

8	Tue, 10/08 & Thu, 10/10	Functional Categories Practice & Review	Ch1-7	
9	Tue, 10/15 Thu, 10/17	Midterm Theta Theory & EPP	Ch1-7 Ch8	CP4 DUE SUN, 10/20
10	Tue, 10/22 & Thu, 10/24	Head Movement, VPISH & Do-support	Ch10	HW4 DUE SUN, 10/27
11	Tue, 10/29 Thu, 10/31	Head Movement Practice More Practice & DP Movement	Ch10 Ch11	CP5 DUE SUN, 11/03
12	Tue, 11/05 & Thu, 11/07	DP Movement	Ch11	HW5 DUE SUN, 11/10
13	Tue, 11/12 & Thu, 11/14	Wh-Movement & Relative Clauses	Ch12	CP6 DUE SUN, 11/17
14	Tue, 11/19 & Thu, 11/21	Movement everywhere	Ch13	HW6 DUE SUN, 11/24
15	11/25-12/01	Break		
16	Tue, 12/03	Review	Ch1-13	
17	By Thu, 12/12	FINAL EXAM / PAPER DUE		DUE: THU, 12/12

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started](#)

with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Recording Policy

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the [Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: Visit [UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.

Teaching Center: 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the [Complaint Portal webpage](#) for more information.

Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the [Student Complaint Procedure webpage](#) for more information.